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ABSTRACT

This statement presents the results of work to date on federal programs that can be used to fund telecommunications and information technology for public and private elementary and secondary schools (grades K-12) and public libraries. At least 27 programs provide funding that may be used to purchase this technology for schools or libraries. For example, four of the programs specifically target technology funding to schools or libraries. Three of these have a combined fiscal year 1998 funding level totaling $565 million. The other program--the universal service discount for schools or libraries, also called the "e-rate"--has a funding level of $1.925 billion for the first funding period (the 18-month period beginning January 1998). Under this program, discounts can be provided to eligible schools or libraries for telecommunication services, Internet access, and internal connections; however, no discounts have yet been funded. The remaining 23 programs do not specifically target technology for schools or libraries but provide funds that can be used for other purposes as well as technology. Others target technology but not exclusively schools or libraries as recipients or technology as a program purpose, but funds may go to schools or libraries and may be used for technology. Except for programs targeted both to technology and to schools or libraries, limited information is available on the amounts spent for technology. All the federal programs are authorized by law. Some statutes specifically authorize technology or telecommunications programs; others have authorization broad enough to allow these users. A table showing federal funding programs for technology is appended. (AEF)

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United States General Accounting Office

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Testimony

Before the Committee on Commerce and the Committee on Education and the Workforce, House of Representatives

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TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Federal Programs That Can Be Used to Fund Technology for Schools and Libraries

Statement of Carlotta C. Joyner, Director
Education and Employment Issues
Health, Education, and Human Services Division

ED 423 876

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Summary

This statement presents the results of our work to date on federal programs that can be used to fund telecommunications and information technology for public and private elementary and secondary schools (grades K through 12) and public libraries. At least 27 programs provide funding that may be used to purchase this technology for schools or libraries. For example, four of the programs specifically target technology funding to schools or libraries. Three of these have a combined fiscal year 1998 funding level totaling $565 million. The other program—the universal service discount for schools or libraries, also called the "e-rate"—has a funding level of $1.925 billion for the first funding period (the 18-month period beginning January 1998). Under this program, discounts can be provided to eligible schools or libraries for telecommunication services, Internet access, and internal connections; however, no discounts have yet been funded. The remaining 23 programs do not specifically target technology for schools or libraries but can be used for this purpose. Some of these programs target schools or libraries but provide funds that can be used for other purposes as well as technology. Others target technology but not exclusively schools or libraries. Others do not target funds either to schools or libraries as recipients or technology as a program purpose, but funds may go to schools or libraries and may be used for technology. Except for programs targeted both to technology and to schools or libraries, limited information is available on the amounts spent for technology. All the federal programs are authorized by law. Some statutes specifically authorize technology or telecommunications programs; others have authorization broad enough to allow these uses.

Telecommunications and Information Technology: Federal Programs That Can Be Used to Fund Technology for Schools and Libraries

Messrs. Chairmen and Members of the Committees:

We are pleased to be here today to discuss the results of our work to date on federal programs that can be used to fund telecommunications and information technology for public and private elementary and secondary schools (grades K through 12) and public libraries. By "telecommunications and information technology," we mean services and products such as telephone and Internet access; computer hardware, software, and wiring; and teacher training in the use of these services and products.

The nation's school districts and public libraries are increasingly investing in technology to improve education, communication, and the flow of information. For example, between 1994 and 1997 the percentage of public schools with access to the Internet rose from 35 percent to 78 percent. But the cost of this technology is high. One market research organization, Quality Education Data, reported that public schools spent an estimated $4.3 billion on technology in school year 1996-97 and projected they would spend $5.2 billion in school year 1997-98. A 1996 RAND study estimated the cost of providing technology-rich learning environments in all schools at between $10 billion and $20 billion per year.

The federal government has supported these technology investment efforts of libraries and schools in multiple ways. For example, in a May 1998 report, we noted that the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA)[1] describes at least 40 federal programs that appear to provide funding assistance that might be used for these purposes.[2] Because of the number of programs and concern over whether there is a lack of coordination and monitoring among them, you asked that we conduct a comprehensive review of programs created or facilitated by the federal government that can be used to fund schools' or libraries' technology initiatives. More specifically, you asked us to (1) list these programs; (2) describe specific features of each of them, such as the federal administrative costs, number of federally funded full-time-equivalent (FTE) positions allocated to each program, the procedures used to award the funding, total program funding in fiscal year 1998 and estimated amount of funding used for technology in fiscal years

[1]The CFDA is a governmentwide compendium of federal programs, projects, services, and activities that provides assistance and benefits. Coordinated by the Office of Management and Budget and compiled by the General Services Administration, the CFDA contains information, both financial and nonfinancial, about programs administered by federal departments and agencies.

[2]Telecommunications: Court Challenges to FCC's Universal Service Order and Federal Support for Telecommunications for Schools or Libraries (GAO/RCED/OGC-98-172R, May 7, 1998).

1996, 1997, and 1998, and the authorizing statute or legal authority to provide such funding; (3) describe the potential for duplication, as seen in the targeted purposes and recipients for each program; (4) discuss how the Government Performance and Results Act of 1993 can be used to coordinate and reduce duplication in programs such as these; (5) describe federal efforts to coordinate federal education and technology programs; and (6) provide any information available regarding waste, fraud, or abuse in each program and efforts to eliminate such problems.

While our review will not be completed until the summer of 1999, you asked that we identify at this hearing (1) what federal programs are available to provide federal or private funding for libraries and elementary and secondary schools for telecommunications and information technology and, for each, the fiscal year 1998 funding level; (2) what information is available about the portion of those funds that was used for technology; and (3) what the authorizing statute or legal authority is for each program to provide such funding.

To answer these questions, we reviewed the CFDA, Department of Education documents, Congressional Research Service publications, and our previous work. We also contacted officials in each of the federal agencies and departments to obtain more detailed information about each program. This approach enabled us to make a more definitive assessment of whether a program would in fact allow funds to be provided for technology to schools or libraries, as we defined them. By "schools," we mean public or private elementary and secondary schools (grades K through 12). By "libraries," we mean public libraries, elementary and secondary school libraries, and private libraries that are not operated for profit; we did not include libraries affiliated with colleges and universities. Funds may be provided to state education agencies and school districts or to individual schools directly.

In summary, our work to date suggests that at least 27 programs provide funding that may be used to purchase telecommunications and information technology for schools or libraries (see appendix). For example, four of the programs specifically target technology funding to schools or libraries. Three of these have a combined fiscal year 1998 funding level totaling $565 million. The other program—the universal service discount for schools and libraries, also called the "e-rate"—has a funding level of $1.925 billion for the first funding period (the 18-month period beginning January 1998). Under this program, discounts can be provided to eligible schools and libraries for telecommunication services,

Internet access, and internal connections; however, no discounts have yet been funded. The remaining 23 programs do not specifically target technology for schools or libraries but can be used for this purpose. Some of these programs target schools or libraries but provide funds that can be used for other purposes as well as technology. Others target technology but not exclusively schools or libraries. Others do not target funds either to schools or libraries as recipients or technology as a program purpose, but funds may go to schools or libraries and may be used for technology. Except for programs targeted both to technology and to schools or libraries, limited information is available on the amounts spent for technology. The fiscal year 1998 funding levels for the more broadly targeted programs ranged from $905,000 to nearly $7.4 billion. Among the programs that we identified, more are available to schools than to libraries. All the federal programs are authorized by law. Some statutes specifically authorize technology or telecommunications programs; others have authorization broad enough to allow these uses.

Background

In recent years, much discussion has focused on the increased use of computers, networks, and connections to the Internet to augment communication and learning. The number of computers per student has increased from 1 for every 125 students in school year 1983-84 to 1 for every 9 students in school year 1996-97. In 1997, 27 percent of classrooms, computer labs, and library/media centers were connected to the Internet, nine times greater than the percentage in 1994.

Schools have used a variety of funding sources to establish and support their technology programs. Some rely on state funding, while others use local tax moneys. Some private funding is also available, and federal funding sources also play a role in supporting technology. Our 1998 report on five school districts found that each used a combination of sources to fund its technology programs.[3] For example, the Seattle Public Schools in Seattle, Washington, received 10 percent of their funding for technology from federal programs, 67 percent from a local capital levy, 16 percent from the district operating budget, about 4 percent from state programs, and 3 percent from private sources. On the other hand, the Manchester School District in Manchester, New Hampshire, obtained 78 percent of its technology funding from a federal Innovation Challenge Grant, 18 percent from the district operating budget, and 3 percent from private sources.

[3]School Technology: Five School Districts' Experiences in Funding Technology Programs (GAO/HEHS-98-35, Jan. 29, 1998).

In addition to funding provided by state, local, and federal sources, assistance for technology has also been made available to schools and libraries through the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) e-rate program, which is funded by mandatory contributions from interstate telecommunications and other service providers.

At Least 27 Federal Programs May Provide Funds for Telecommunications and Information Technology for Schools and Libraries

At least 27 federal programs may provide funding for technology to elementary and secondary schools and libraries.[4] Three of these programs, administered by the Department of Education, specifically provide funding for technology to schools or libraries. These three programs provided $565 million in 1998. A fourth program—the e-rate—will provide discounts to schools and libraries for telecommunications services, Internet access, and internal connections.[5] The remaining 23 programs, administered by five agencies and departments, do not exclusively fund technology or target their funds to just schools or libraries. Funds from these programs may also be used for a wide range of other activities, such as development and implementation of comprehensive education reform plans through the Goals 2000 program. Other recipients may include universities and colleges, social service organizations, nonprofit groups, and Native American tribal organizations. The 1998 funding levels for these programs ranged from $905,000 to almost $7.4 billion. Funding mechanisms include both formula and competitive grants. The 27 programs are described in the appendix and summarized in table 1 and the following narrative.[6]

[4]We also identified a few other programs that may provide funds for technology for schools or libraries, but we have not yet obtained enough detailed information to determine conclusively whether they fit our criteria for including them on this list.

[5]Not more than $1.925 billion will be spent for the schools and libraries support program during the 18-month period beginning January 1998.

[6]We also identified several federal programs that provide technology resources, such as educational materials, technical assistance, and teacher training, to schools or libraries but do not provide funding. For example, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) does not provide funding to schools or libraries, but its Aerospace Education Services Program conducts workshops with teachers to show them how to enhance their mathematics and science programs with on-line NASA programs. The funding for the Aerospace Education Services Program was $5.6 million in 1998. In addition, the Department of Education's six Regional Technical Support and Professional Development Consortia, which had a budget of $10 million in 1998, provided technical support and professional development by providing teacher training for technology programs.

Table 1: Categories of Programs

	Recipients	
Program purpose	**Schools or libraries targeted**	**Schools and libraries allowed but not exclusively targeted**
Targets technology	Category I: targets schools or libraries and technology (N=4)	Category III: targets technology but not schools or libraries (N=4)
Allows technology but does not target it	Category II: targets schools or libraries but not technology (N=16)	Category IV: Does not target schools or libraries or technology (N=3)

Category I: Programs That Target Technology for Schools or Libraries

Three Department of Education programs and one FCC program target technology for schools or libraries. The three Department of Education programs provided a total of about $565 million in 1998 to support technology specifically for schools or libraries. They are the Technology Literacy Challenge Fund, with a 1998 funding level of $425 million; the Technology Innovation Challenge Grants Program, at $106 million; and the Star Schools Program, at $34 million. The largest program—the Technology Literacy Challenge Fund—provides resources to states to enable schools to integrate technology into school curricula. The states distribute the funds to school districts competitively for a broad range of technology purchases, such as computer hardware and software, telecommunications services, and professional development. Technology Innovation Challenge Grants are competitive grants to support school district technology efforts, and Star Schools supports programs that provide increased access to education services such as distance learning.

One of the largest funding initiatives we identified is FCC's e-rate program. The general purpose of this program is to improve the access of schools and libraries to modern telecommunications services. It was added by the Telecommunications Act of 1996, which, among other things, extended universal service support to eligible schools and libraries and also specified that every telecommunications carrier that provides interstate telecommunications services, unless exempted by FCC, must contribute to a universal service fund.[7] In its May 1997 universal service order, FCC adopted a recommendation that eligible schools and libraries may receive discounts of between 20 to 90 percent on telecommunications services, Internet access, and internal connections.[8] Schools and libraries located in

[7]Traditionally, "universal service" has meant providing residential customers with affordable, nationwide access to basic telephone service.

[8]FCC's universal service order has been challenged in federal court. Texas Office of Public Utility Counsel v. FCC, No. 97-60421 (5th Cir. filed June 25, 1997).

rural and low-income areas will receive the highest discounts from the fund. Schools and libraries will receive only discounts—no direct funding from the program. The universal service fund then compensates the schools' and libraries' vendors for the amount of the discounts. Funding for the e-rate is capped at $2.25 billion annually. Schools and libraries that submitted applications for discounts through April 1998 requested about $2 billion in discounts. In June 1998, however, FCC significantly modified the program, extending the first funding period to 18 months and adjusting the amounts that could be collected and spent during 1998 and the first 6 months of 1999 to $1.925 billion. As of September 16, 1998, no schools or libraries had yet received discounts through the program.

Category II: Programs That Target Schools or Libraries but Do Not Target Technology as a Use for the Funds

Sixteen programs available only to schools or libraries do not target technology specifically but allow recipients to use funds for technology. The Department of Education administers 13 of the programs, and the Institute of Museum and Library Services administers 3. In 1998, the total program funding levels ranged from $905,000 to almost $7.4 billion, but in many cases, officials were not able to provide estimates of the amount spent for technology. For example, through the Twenty-First Century Community Learning Centers Program administered by the Department of Education, rural and inner-city public elementary and secondary schools or a consortia of such schools may compete for grants to establish school-based, community learning programs. Among the 13 activities that the program may fund are literacy education and children's day care services along with telecommunications and technology education programs. A Department of Education official said that the agency knows that some of the funding is used to support technology, but it does not require schools to report how much of the grants were spent for each activity. For some programs, however, the amount spent on technology can be identified. For example, of the almost $6 million available through the Migrant Coordination Program, $3.3 million was awarded for six technology projects to develop innovative uses of technology for migrant students.

Category III: Programs That Target Technology but Do Not Target Schools or Libraries

For four programs in three agencies—the Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, and Education—funds are targeted to technology uses through competitive grants, and schools or libraries—among other organizations—are eligible to apply. Program funding levels for 1998 ranged from $12.5 million to more than $34 million. For three of the programs, however, only a small portion of the funds is awarded to

schools or libraries, according to program officials. For example, the Department of Commerce's Telecommunications and Information Infrastructure Assistance Program awarded nearly $21 million in 1997 grants for 55 information infrastructure demonstration projects. Of that amount, about $2.4 million was awarded for six projects for libraries or elementary or secondary school initiatives. Other recipients included a fire protection district in Colorado that established remote command sites to manage emergency equipment and personnel and the Circuit Court of Cook County Illinois, which established a children's advocacy network. According to a Department of Commerce official, the average grant was about $350,000.

Category IV: Programs That Do Not Target Schools or Libraries and Do Not Target Technology

Three programs do not target funds either to schools or libraries as recipients or to technology as a program purpose, but funds may go to schools or libraries and may be used for technology. Programs in this category are administered by the Department of Education and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). Funding levels in 1998 ranged from $3 million to $6 million. For example the NEH Education, Development, and Demonstration Program provided over $4 million in competitive grants. Of that amount, an agency official estimated that about 65 percent was awarded to elementary and secondary schools for technology projects, such as development of CD-ROM and websites, with humanities content. Other grant recipients in this category include universities and colleges, state and local governments, and nonprofit organizations.

Information on Amounts Spent on Technology Is Not Always Available

We considered funding for federal programs that target technology to be used entirely for technology products or services. For programs that do not target technology but allow funds to be used for technology, it is more difficult to get information on how much of the funding is actually spent on technology. Recipients of these funds are not always required to prepare detailed budgets or report expenditures in a way that would capture that information. We identified two types of funding mechanisms in this category: (1) competitive grant programs, in which state education agencies, school districts, or other entities may compete for funding and (2) formula grant programs that allocate funds to state education agencies, school districts, or other entities through a formula based on specific criteria such as the number of students in the state or the number of students below the poverty level. Some competitive grants require recipients to develop and submit a detailed budget listing planned

expenditures. In some cases, officials told us that they could provide an estimate of funds spent on technology by using this budget information. However, several officials overseeing formula grants told us that grant recipients were not required to report expenditures and that these data might be available only at the state level.

For example, one such program, the Department of Education's Title I program, is designed to provide financial assistance to local education agencies for services to educationally disadvantaged students to improve academic performance. Total funding was almost $7.4 billion in fiscal year 1998. According to a program official, schools have used a portion of their Title I funds, which are awarded according to a formula, to acquire and apply technology under the broad authority of this legislation. However, because the Department does not require states to report exactly how their districts spend their Title I funds each year, it is not known exactly what amount or percentage of these funds was spent for technology in recent years. The Department has contracted for a study, scheduled for completion in 1999, that will provide information about state and school district Title I expenditures, including technology.

Programs' Authorizing Statutes or Legal Authority

All the federal programs we have identified as providing funds to schools and libraries for technology are authorized by law. Some statutes specifically authorize technology programs. In many other cases, the Congress has authorized agencies to carry out activities or provide financial assistance to schools and libraries under programs broad enough to be used for technology. One program, the Telecommunications and Information Infrastructure Assistance Program, is authorized primarily by appropriations acts. The Congress, in appropriations acts, has expanded the authority of the Department of Commerce under the Communications Act of 1934 to construct public telecommunications facilities. The appropriations acts specifically permit funds to be used for planning and constructing telecommunications networks for schools, libraries, and other social services.

This concludes my prepared statement. I would be pleased to respond to any questions you or Members of the Committees may have.

Appendix

Federal Funding Programs for Technology

Table I.1: Programs That Target Technology for Schools or Libraries

Program	Authorizing statute or legal authority	1998 funding level[a]	Comments
Department of Education			
1. Technology Innovation Challenge Grants	Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended, title III, part A, section 3136, 20 U.S.C. 6846	$106,000,000	Grants are for 5-year technology development and demonstration projects and are available to local education agencies that have a consortium of community partners that includes at least one local education agency with a high percentage or number of children living below the poverty level. These grants focus on professional development.
2. Technology Literacy Challenge Fund Grants	Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended, title III, part A, sections 3131-3137, 20 U.S.C. 6841-6847	$425,000,000	This program encourages the integration of technology into school instructional programs. Funds for this program are allocated to all states on the basis of their Title I funding, with a minimum funding level of $2.1 million for an individual state in 1998. The state runs competitions based on state priorities, and 95 percent of the funds go to school districts. This fund can be used for a broad range of activities related to technology, including computer hardware and software, professional development, and telecommunications services.

(continued)

Program	Authorizing statute or legal authority	1998 funding level[a]	Comments
3. Star Schools Program	Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended, title III, part B, sections 3201-3210, 20 U.S.C. 6891-6900	$34,000,000	This program supports the development of distance learning courses for students and resources for teachers. The focus of the program is directed toward underserved populations including the disadvantaged and those with limited English proficiency. Grants are awarded to telecommunications partnerships for a variety of expenditures, including telecommunications equipment, instructional programming, and technical assistance.
Federal Communications Commission			
4. Universal Service Discount for Schools and Libraries [e-rate]	Telecommunications Act of 1996, as amended, title I, section 101(a), P.L. 104-104, 47 U.S.C. 254 (h)	$1.925 billion for 18 months beginning January 1998	This program provides discounts to eligible schools and libraries ranging from 20 to 90 percent for telecommunications services, Internet access, and internal connections. The program is funded by mandatory contributions from interstate telecommunications and other service providers.

[a]With the exception of the e-rate program, funding levels shown are the fiscal year 1998 appropriations for a program or allocation of appropriated funds made within a department to specific programs.

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Table I.2: Programs That Target Schools or Libraries but Do Not Target Technology

Program	Authorizing statute or legal authority	1998 funding level[a]	Comments
Department of Education			
1. Title I Grants to Local Education Agencies	Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended, title I, part A, sections 1111-1127, 20 U.S.C. 6311-6338	$7.375 billion	Funds are allocated to all states on the basis of the number of children from low-income families. These grants provide additional academic support to help low-achieving children meet state performance standards. The Department of Education is conducting a study of how Title I funds are spent—including expenditures for technology, according to program officials. Results of the study will be available in 1999.
2. Migrant Education, Basic State Grant Program	Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended, title I, part C, sections 1301-1307, 20 U.S.C. 6391-6397	$299,475,000	Funds support the special needs of migrant children to help ensure that they have the opportunity to meet the same performance standards that all children are expected to meet.
3. Migrant Education Coordination Program	Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended, title I, part C, section 1308, 20 U.S.C. 6398	$5,998,000	Six technology grants, totaling $3.3 million, were awarded to address the problems of disruption, lack of resources, and language difficulty that children of migrant families experience. Very little of the funding is used for technology, according to a program official.
4. Magnet Schools Assistance	Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended, title V, part A, sections 5101-5113, 20 U.S.C. 7201-7213	$101,000,000	The purpose of these grants is to support desegregation of public schools. Funds may be used for a variety of activities, including the acquisition of computers and their maintenance and operation—if they are necessary for the conduct of the program and are directly related to improving student skills and knowledge.

(continued)

Program	Authorizing statute or legal authority	1998 funding level[a]	Comments
5. Eisenhower Professional Development Federal Activities	Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended, title II, parts A and C, sections 2101, 2102, 2301-2306, 20 U.S.C. 6621, 6622, 6671-6676	$23,300,000	This program focuses on K-12 teacher education. According to a program official, only one of four portions of the program provides technology funding to schools or libraries, and no new grants were awarded in 1998 for that portion.
6. Eisenhower Professional Development State Grants	Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended, title II, part B, sections 2201-2211, 20 U.S.C. 6641-6651	$335,000,000	The objective of this program is to improve teaching and learning through high-quality professional development activities in the core academic subjects. Funding is provided to states by formula. According to a program official, some of the funding goes to institutions of higher education, and there is no estimate of how much was spent on technology-related professional development.
7. Javits Gifted and Talented Students Education Program	Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended, title X, part B, sections 10201-10206, 20 U.S.C. 8031-8036	$6,500,000	Program provides competitive grants to state and local education agencies and institutions of higher education, and other organizations, to build a national capability to meet the needs of gifted and talented students. An estimated 10 percent of $4 million awarded in grant funding was spent on technology in 1998, according to a program official.
8. Fund for the Improvement of Education	Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended, title X, part A, sections 10101-10107, 20 U.S.C. 8001-8007	$108,100,000	Program provides competitive grants to fund nationally significant programs to improve the quality of education. Grants may be awarded to state education agencies, local education agencies, institutions of higher education, and public and private nonprofit organizations and institutions.

(continued)

Program	Authorizing statute or legal authority	1998 funding level[a]	Comments
9. Goals 2000 State and Local Education Systemic Improvement Grants	Goals 2000: Educate America Act, as amended, title III, sections 301-319, P.L. 103-227, 20 U.S.C. 5881-5899	$466,000,000	Formula grants are awarded to all states to develop and implement comprehensive education reform plans at the state, local, and school levels to improve the teaching and learning of all children. States may use their grants to purchase technology.
10. Twenty-First Century Community Learning Centers	Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended, title X, part I, sections 10901-10907, 20 U.S.C. 8241-8247	$40,000,000	Competitive grants are awarded to rural and inner-city public K-12 schools, consortia of such schools, or local education agencies to set up school-based learning centers for the entire community. Telecommunications and technology education is one of 13 program activities funded.
11. Bilingual Education Capacity and Demonstration Grants	Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended, title VII, part A, sections 7101-7161, 20 U.S.C. 7401-7491	$160,000,000	Program provides grants to local education agencies to fund programs for students with limited English proficiency. According to a program official, technology development is encouraged.
12. Innovative Education Program Strategies	Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended, title VI, sections 6001-6403, 20 U.S.C. 7301-7373	$350,000,000	Formula grants are allocated to all state education agencies on the basis of the number of school-aged children. Part of the purpose of the program is to support state efforts to obtain technology as part of a broad program of education reform.
13. Alaska Native Student Enrichment Program	Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended, title IX, part C, section 9306, 20 U.S.C. 7936	$905,000	Funds are awarded to Alaska Native organizations or educational entities to develop science and mathematics enrichment programs for Alaska Native students.

(continued)

Program	Authorizing statute or legal authority	1998 funding level[a]	Comments
Institute of Museum and Library Services			
14. National Leadership Grants	Museum and Library Services Act, as amended, P.L. 94-462, title II, section 262, 20 U.S.C. 9162	$7,500,000	This program includes three types of competitive grants for libraries for education and training, research and demonstration projects, and preservation of collections, according to a program official. It also includes a fourth competitive grant for museums' and libraries' model projects. An estimated 75 percent of funding was spent on technology-related expenses.
15. Native American and Native Hawaiian Grants	Museum and Library Services Act, as amended, P.L. 94-462, title II,section 261, 20 U.S.C. 9161	$2,577,000	This program provides basic formula grants for core library operations as well as competitive grants for training for library staff and specialized projects, according to a program official. An estimated 35 percent of funding was spent on technology-related expenses.
16. State Grants	Museum and Library Services Act, as amended, title II, section 231, P.L. 94-462, 20 U.S.C. 9141	$126,292,000	This program provides formula grants to state library associations on the basis of state population, according to a program official. Funds may be used for network and communication needs as determined by the state entity. An estimated 50 percent of funding was spent on technology-related projects.

[a]Funding levels shown are the fiscal year 1998 appropriations for a program or allocation of appropriated funds made within a department to specific programs.

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Table I.3: Programs That Target Technology but Do Not Target Schools or Libraries

Program	Authorizing statute or legal authority	1998 funding level[a]	Comments
Department of Agriculture			
1. Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grants	Federal, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990, as amended, title XXIII, section 2333, 7 U.S.C. 950aaa-2	$12,500,000	Awards may be made to a variety of organizations, including educational institutions, libraries, and medical organizations. 1998 awards will be made in September, according to a program official.
Department of Commerce			
2. Public Telecommunications Facilities Planning and Construction	Communications Act of 1934, as amended, title III, part IV, sections 390-393A, 397-399B, 47 U.S.C. 390-393a, 397-399b; Dept. of Commerce Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 1997, P.L. 104-208; Dept. of Commerce Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 1998, P.L. 105-119	$20,000,000	This program provides funding to upgrade, expand, or create public broadcasting capability, according to a program official. Grants are awarded to organizations including public or noncommercial educational broadcast stations and noncommercial telecommunications entities; nonprofit institutions organized primarily for educational or cultural purposes; and state, local, or Native American tribal governments. About $3 million each year is awarded to educational institutions, most of which goes to universities, according to a program official.
3. Telecommunications and Information Infrastructure Assistance Program	Communications Act of 1934, as amended, title III, part IV, sections 390-392, 47 U.S.C. 390-392; Dept. of Commerce Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 1997, P.L. 104-208; Dept. of Commerce Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 1998, P.L. 105-119	$20,000,000	Provides funding for information infrastructure demonstration projects, according to a program official. Grants go to public and nonprofit entities, for example, state and local governments, police and fire departments, community and social service organizations. In 1997, of 55 grants, 6 went to library projects or K-12 education initiatives.

(continued)

Program	Authorizing statute or legal authority	1998 funding level[a]	Comments
Department of Education			
4. Special Education Technology and Media Services for Individuals With Disabilities	Individuals With Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), as amended, part B, section 687, 20 U.S.C. 1487	$34,023,000	Grants are awarded to (1) promote the development, demonstration, and utilization of technology and (2) support education media activities designed to be of educational value to children with disabilities, and other specified media-related activities. Grants go to state and local education agencies, nonprofit organizations, higher education institutions, Native American tribes, tribal organizations, and outlying areas.

[a]Funding levels shown are the fiscal year 1998 appropriations for a program or allocation of appropriated funds made within a department to specific programs.

Table I.4: Programs That Do Not Target Schools or Libraries and Do Not Target Technology

Program	Authorizing statute or legal authority	1998 funding level[a]	CommentsDepartment
National Endowment for the Humanities			
1. Promotion of the Humanities Education, Development, and Demonstration Grants	National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities Act of 1965, as amended, sections 2, 7, P.L. 89-209, 20 U.S.C. 951, 956	$4,730,000	This program provides competitive grants. About 65 percent of the funding went to K-12 schools for technology-related projects such as development of CD-ROM or websites, according to a program official.
2. Promotion of the Humanities Summer Seminars and Institutes	National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities Act of 1965, as amended, sections 2, 7, P.L. 89-209, 20 U.S.C. 951, 956	$6,000,000	This program provides grants to teachers at all grade levels and others to direct or attend training seminars on a variety of humanities-related subjects. According to a program official, an estimated 1 percent was spent on technology-related training for K-12 teachers.
Department of Education			
3. Women's Educational Equity Act Program	Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended, title V, part B, sections 5201-5208, 20 U.S.C. 7231-7238	$3,000,000	The primary focus of this program is to promote gender equity through educational opportunities for girls and women. According to a program official, most grants are made to K-12 and higher education institutions and most recipients probably use part of their grants for computer hardware and software.

[a] Funding levels shown are the fiscal year 1998 appropriations for a program or allocation of appropriated funds made within a department to specific programs.

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